

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT

W18b

November 21, 2003

TO: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

FROM: SUSAN M. HANSCH, Chief Deputy Director  
 REBECCA K. ROTH, Federal Programs Manager *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: **Amended Interagency Agreement for Funding the Central Coast Comprehensive Wetland Database** for public hearing and Commission action at the Coastal Commission Meeting of December 10, 2003, Item 18b.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the existing interagency agreement to pass through \$226,675 of federal funds to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay, also referred to herein as the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (NEP), for the purpose of completing the Central Coast Wetland Database. The original interagency agreement was approved by the Commission in June 2001 and amended in December 2002.

**MOTION:**

*"I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement to pass through \$226,675 of federal funds to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and \$59,426 of federal funds to the California Conservation Corps for the purpose of completing the Central Coast Wetland Database."*

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND:**

On October 1, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a \$312,531 grant application for the Coastal Commission, Morro Bay NEP and the California Conservation Corps to create a central coast wetlands geographic information systems (GIS) database. The GIS will be linked to habitat information and create a wetland inventory with detailed information in the Morro Bay area. The project involves completing a wetlands inventory that contains wetland delineation, and research and monitoring information. The inventory will be expanded throughout the central coast of California and will be integrated with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network to become a comprehensive wetlands inventory.

**TABLE A: AMENDED Breakdown of EPA Grant Funds by Agency & Section**

<b>CA Coastal Commission</b> <i>(originally \$126,000, amount was revised 12/02)</i>	<b>\$26,430</b>
<b>Morro Bay NEP</b> <i>(amount revised)</i>	<b>\$226,675</b> <i>(previously \$203,101)</i>
<b>CA Conservation Corp</b> <i>(amount revised)</i>	<b>\$59,426</b> <i>(previously \$83,000)</i>
<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>\$312,531</b>

In June 2001, prior to receiving the EPA grant, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Morro Bay NEP (\$103,101) and the California Conservation Corp (\$83,000) to act as partners in creating the GIS database. The agreement was amended in December 2002 to transfer \$100,000 to the Morro Bay NEP (total of \$203,101) from the Commission because the state-hiring freeze prevented the Commission staff from completing most of the agreed work program. (Refer to Table A.)

The subject agreement amendment is necessary because the Conservation Corps received budget cuts that prevent them from completing the field data collection component of the project. The amended agreement is a shift in \$23,574 from the Conservation Corps to the Morro Bay NEP in order to complete the field data collection.

As revised in December 2002 and as proposed in this amendment agreement, Morro Bay NEP agrees to complete the bulk of the tasks as follows:

- Survey agencies for existing GIS data
- Compile GIS data
- Develop new GIS data based on data gaps
- Assemble aerial photograph time series
- Conduct literature search and populate relational database
- Link the GIS and relational database
- Develop website
- Conduct training workshop
- Field data collection